

Appl. No. 10/645,764
Ammdt. dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of June 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter braid formed from at least two continuous wires woven together, the catheter braid comprising:
 - a proximal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a proximal cross-sectional area; and
 - a distal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a distal cross-sectional area;

wherein each continuous wire extends through the proximal braid section and through the distal braid section, and for each continuous wire, the distal cross-sectional area of said continuous wire is less than the proximal cross-sectional area of said continuous wire.
2. (Previously Presented) The catheter braid of claim 1, wherein each of the at least two continuous wires has a proximal portion corresponding to the proximal braid section and a distal portion corresponding to the distal braid section.
- 3-5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The catheter braid of claim 1, wherein the distal cross-sectional area is about one-third less than the proximal cross-sectional area.
7. (Original) The catheter braid of claim 2, wherein the wire has a round cross-sectional area with the proximal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.5 millimeters and the distal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.0 millimeters.
8. (Original) The catheter braid of claim 1, wherein each of the continuous wires comprises stainless steel.

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9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A catheter having a distal end and a proximal end, the catheter having a distal region proximate the distal end, the catheter comprising:

an inner layer extending from the distal end to the proximal end; and

a reinforcing braid layer disposed over the inner layer, the braid layer formed from at least two continuous wires woven together, the braid layer comprising a proximal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a proximal cross-sectional area, and a distal braid section in which each of the continuous wires has a distal cross-sectional area;

wherein each continuous wire extends through the proximal braid section and through the distal braid section, and the distal cross-sectional area of each of the continuous wires is less than the proximal cross-sectional area of each of the continuous wires.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The catheter of claim 10, further comprising an outer layer disposed over the reinforcing braid layer.

13-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 10, wherein the distal cross-sectional area is about one-third less than the proximal cross-sectional area.

18. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim [[13]] 10, wherein the wire has a round cross-sectional area with the proximal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.5 millimeters and the distal portion of the wire having a diameter of about 1.0 millimeters.

19-25. (Canceled)